

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 JUSE-00 IO-13 /082 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:REWOODS:LP
APPROVED BY EUR/NE:REWOODS, ACTING
EUR/P:MWJERABEK (SUBS)
L:JSMITH (DRAFT)
-----098505 040725Z /16
R 030233Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AINF, SW, UK, NO

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF PENTAGON PAPERS

1. DEPARTMENT (EUR/NE) CALLED IN (SEPARATELY) THE UK, SWEDISH AND NORWEGIAN EMBASSIES ON SEPTEMBER 2 TO INFORM THEM OF DECISION TO RELEASE REMAINING PORTIONS OF PENTAGON PAPERS. AS POSTS ARE NO DOUBT AWARE, MORTON HALPERIN HAS SUED USG FOR THESE PORTIONS UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. MATERIAL IN QUESTION CONCERNS SWEDISH, NORWEGIAN, AND UK ROLES DURING THE LATE 1960'S AS INTERMEDIARIES BETWEEN THE US AND THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.

.. DEPARTMENT OFFICER MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: BEGIN
QUOTE.

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-- WE APPRECIATE THE STRONG VIEWS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT THAT THIS MATERIAL, AS IT RELATES TO YOUR INVOLVEMENT, NOT BE RELEASED INTO THE PUBLIC REALM.

-- UNFORTUNATELY, SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS IN THIS CASE RENDER IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE USG TO CONTINUE THE DEFENSE OF

THE SUIT OR TO PROTECT ALL OF THE MATERIAL.

-- WHEN THE MATERIAL WAS INTRODUCED AS EVIDENCE IN THE 1973 PROSECUTION OF DANIEL ELLSWORTH AND ANTHONY RUSSO, THE USG REQUESTED IT BE PROTECTED FROM PUBLIC SCRUTINY.

-- DESPITE THIS REQUEST, THE COURT ORDERED COPIES PLACED IN A PUBLIC READING ROOM, WHERE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAD ACCESS TO THEM.

-- IN VIEW OF THIS PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS DETERMINED THAT THE USG WOULD NOT BE SUCCESSFUL IN MAINTAINING IN COURT THAT THE DOCUMENTS REMAIN CLASSIFIED.

-- ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE CONSULTED WITH MR. HALPERIN WHO HAS AGREED TO SETTLE THE SUIT BY ACCEPTING SLIGHTLY SANITIZED VERSIONS.

-- THESE INCLUDE THE GREAT BULK OF MATERIAL, BUT EXCLUDE TEXTS OF NON-AMERICAN DOCUMENTS, SENSITIVE COMMENTS BY US OR FOREIGN OFFICIALS CONCERNING OTHER OFFICIALS OR COLLEAGUES, AND CERTAIN OTHER SENSITIVE PASSAGES.

-- SANITIZED VERSIONS WILL BE HANDED OVER TO MR. HALPERIN POSSIBLY DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5.
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-- THE USG DEEPLY REGRETS ITS INABILITY, IN THIS CASE, TO PROTECT INFORMATION PROVIDED IN CONFIDENCE BY YOUR GOVERNMENT, INDEED IT WAS IN THE COURSE OF PROSECUTING THE LEAK OF THE PENTAGON PAPERS THAT THIS UNFORTUNATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OCCURRED.

-- WE WOULD ALSO STRESS, HOWEVER, THE UNIQUE NATURE OF THIS CASE, AND THAT OUR ACTION IN NO WAY REFLECTS A DIMINUTION OF OUR DETERMINATION AND ABILITY TO PROTECT SENSITIVE DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES. END QUOTE.

3. DEPARTMENT ALSO PROVIDED RELEVANT PORTIONS OF SANITIZED TEXT WHICH WILL BE GIVEN TO HALPERIN. COPIES POUCHED FOR ADDRESSEE POSTS INFO. CHRISTOHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE211825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REWOODS:LP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770321-0198
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770998/aaaadfbg.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ff3ffb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1389933
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELEASE OF PENTAGON PAPERS
TAGS: AINF, SW, UK, NO
To: LONDON STOCKHOLM MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ff3ffb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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